

Meander

CHRONICLE

Good Midlands News!

1st November 2018 / Garth Johnstone :: Agriculture 0

Kwanalu announces 2019 board and president



The **KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu)** has announced its board for 2019 as well as the election of the president of the union, Greytown farmer **Andy Buchan** and the appointments of vice-presidents Phenias Gumede and Peter-John (PJ) Hassard.

In the picture: From left to right, CEO Sandy La Marque, Christopher Hadebe (board member), Phenias Gumede (vice-president), Andy Buchan (president), Kathy Hurley (board member), Bobby Hoole (board member) and Andy Mason (board member).



Vice-president Peter-John Hassard, who was not present for the group picture.

Gumede brings his expertise to the position as a cotton and vegetable farmer from Jozini, a project manager for numerous community upliftment projects and as vice president of the national body, Agri SA. Hassard is a fourth generation beef and game farmer from Hluhluwe who began to conserve and protect animals from a young age.

Sustainable development

Other board members include Christopher Hadebe, a Newcastle beef and crop farmer and Greytown timber farmer Andy Mason who serves on various bodies and is involved in Forestry South Africa. Bobby Hoole from Estcourt is a fire management specialist and business strategy manager, who is also the chairman of two of the largest farmer associations, the HDLA and NRLA. The final board member is Dr Kathy Hurley from SA Cane Growers. Dr Hurley serves as an executive director on the SA Cane Growers board, specialising in collaborating across commodities in order to ensure sustainable development through inclusivity, especially in rural areas.

Buchan was unanimously elected by the board and is backed by 23 years of experience in farming, having spent 15 of those on his own farm – El Shammah, in Greytown, where he farms strawberries and kiwi fruit. This will be Buchan's fourth term as Kwanalu president.

International recognition for local farming programme

“There are many challenges impacting the sustainability of agriculture. The critical role organised agriculture plays in the shaping of this future has never been more pertinent; we have a crucial role to play in order to advance the transformation process,” said Buchan.

Kwanalu chief executive Sandy La Marque said Buchan's re-election for a fourth term indicated the crucial role he has played over the past three years guiding Kwanalu during some of agriculture's most turbulent years.

For further information on Kwanalu, visit www.kwanalu.co.za